

Message Text

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ACTION SCI-06

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TOKYO PASS USDEL/ABBUHL FROM CAVITT

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TAGS: SENV, OECD

SUBJECT: OECD ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE: MEETING OF SUB-COMMITTEE OF ECONOMIC EXPERTS (SCEE), JAPANESE POLICY ON POLLUTER PAYS PRINCIPLE.

1. DURING SCEE DISCUSSION OF POSSIBLE ACCEPTABLE EXCEPTIONS TO OECD POLLUTER PAYS PRINCIPLE, GOJ REP FROM MITI STATED GOJ PROVIDING ACROSS-THE-BOARD SUBSIDIES TO FIRMS REQUIRED MEET NOX EMISSION STANDARDS. HE JUSTIFIED ACTION ON GROUNDS STIFF STANDARDS, RAPIDLY IMPLEMENTED, AT HIGH COST, WHICH FIRMS UNABLE BEAR ALONE AND SOUGHT HAVE SCEE ENDORSE EXCEPTION TO PPP IN SUCH CIRCUMSTANCES. AFTER EXTENSIVE DISCUSSION, CONSENSUS OF SCEE WAS THAT GOJ SITUATION DID NOT MEET CRITERIA OF ANY ACCEPTABLE EXCEPTION TO PPP.

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2. IN SUBSEQUENT MEETING OF SMALL DRAFTING GROUP ON LANGUAGE FOR PROPOSED OECD ENVIRONMENTAL MINISTERIAL DECLARATION PPP, ISSUE AGAIN RAISED AND GOJ REP PERSISTED AT THAT TIME, HE FURTHER ADMITTED GOJ INDISCRIMINATELY PROVIDING SOFT LOANS TO FIRMS REQUIRED MEET BOTH NOX AND SOX EMISSION STANDARDS. CONSENSUS OF OTHER MEMBERS OF DRAFTING GROUP, COMPOSED OF US REP (CAVITT), UK, NETHERLANDS, NORWAY AND THE SECRETARIAT, WAS THAT GOJ IN VIOLATION PPP AND THAT PRINCIPLE COULD NOT AND WOULD NOT BE COMPROMISED TO PERMIT ACTION WHICH WOULD NEGATE ALL PURPOSE AND MEANING OF PPP. THIS VIEW CLEARLY CONVEYED TO GOJ REP BY THE DRAFTING GROUP.

3. DRAFTING SESSION ENDED WITH ADOPTION TIGHTLY WORDED PROPOSED MINISTERIAL DECLARATION ON PPP WHICH LATER ADOPTED BY SCEE WITHOUT GOJ OPPOSITION. SUBSEQUENTLY, SECRETARIAT (POTIER) REPORTED GOJ REP NOT SATISFIED WITH RESULT AND INTENDED RAISE ISSUE IN ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE MEETING JULY 1-3 WHEN SCEE WORK COMES UP FOR APPROVAL BEFORE SUBMISSION TO MINISTERIAL IN NOVEMBER.

4. IN LIGHT THESE DEVELOPMENTS US DEL TO US-JAPAN MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE ON THE ENVIRONMENT IN TOKYO MAY 17-20 MAY WISH TO PURSUE NATURE AND EXTENT GOJ SUBSIDIES, AS WELL AS GOJ VIEW OF PPP, IN CONTEXT AGENDA ITEM IV, C, ON OECD ENVIRONMENT PROGRAM.
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